

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-15 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-03 USIA-15

PRS-01 SPC-03 DRC-01 /093 W
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R 261840Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4270

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

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AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB

SUBJECT: TUC OFFICIAL CONFIDENT OF LARGE ICFTU AFFILIATE

PARTICIPATION IN GENEVA EAST-WEST TRADE UNION

MEETINGS

REF: (A) STOCKHOLM 2812; (B) LONDON 10329

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: ALUN HARGREAVES, HEAD OF THE TUC'S
INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT, EXPRESSED HIS CONFIDENCE THAT
THERE WILL BE A VERY LARGE ICFTU AFFILIATE PARTICIPA-
TION IN THE MEETING OF EASTERN AND WESTERN TRADE UNION

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LEADERS IN GENEVA, JANUARY 19-20. END SUMMARY.

2. HARGREAVES EXPRESSED THE VIEW TO THE EMBASSY LABATT THAT WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE FRENCH FO AND POSSIBLY THE ITALIAN UIL, ALL OF THE ICFTU'S EUROPEAN AFFILIATES WILL AGREE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EAST-WEST TRADE UNION MEETING EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE IN GENEVA JANUARY 19-20 (REF A).

3. HARGREAVES INSISTED THAT THE BRITISH TUC "WAS NOT IN A HURRY" TO HAVE THE GENEVA MEETING (DESPITE THE FACT THAT LEN MURRAY, NEW TUC GENERAL SECRETARY, REPORTEDLY HAS WRITTEN TO OTHER ICFTU EUROPEAN AFFILIATES, URGING THEIR PARTICIPATION.) HARGREAVES NOTED THAT IT WAS THE SOVIETS WHO WERE IN "A HURRY FOR THEIR OWN BLOODY, POLITICAL REASONS."

4. HARGREAVES ALSO SAID THAT BORIS AVERYANOV, HEAD OF THE SOVIET AUCCTU'S INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT, HAD PRESSED HIM DURING THE TUC BLACKPOOL CONGRESS FOR AN APPROPRIATE AGENDA FOR THE GENEVA MEETINGS. THE TUC OFFICIAL TOLD THE SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE THAT "OCTOBER IS PLENTY OF TIME TO DISCUSS AGENDA." HARGREAVES ADDED THAT, IN HIS VIEW, THE AGENDA SHOULD BE CONFINED TO TRADE UNION ISSUES SUCH AS COMPARATIVE WAGES, ENVIRONMENT, SAFETY, MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES, AND RELATIONS BETWEEN COMECON AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY (THE LATTER HOWEVER APPEARS TO BE LARGELY A POLITICAL ISSUE).

5. THE TUC OFFICIAL FURTHER STATED THAT SOME FORM OF REGULAR EAST-WEST COORDINATION MACHINERY OUGHT TO BE DISCUSSED AT GENEVA IN ORDER TO PLAN FUTURE MEETINGS. THERE WAS NO NEED, ACCORDING TO HARGREAVES, TO CREATE A NEW SECRETARIAT: "ONE OF US CAN ACT AS SECRETARY" (PRESUMABLY HARGREAS HIMSELF, OR AN OFFICIAL OF ANOTHER PARTICIPATING TRADE UNION CENTER.)

6. HARGREAVES DENIED THAT THE EAST-WEST CONSULTATIONS

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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MIGHT BE LINKED, EVENTUALLY, TO THE TUC GOAL, EXPRESSED IN THE CONGRESS RESOLUTION (REF B) CALLING FOR WORLD TRADE UNITY (LINKING ICFTU, UCTU, AND UCL). "WORLD TRADE UNITY IS A LONG WAY OFF," HE DECLARED; "WE'RE DEALING WITH EUROPE NOW."

7. HARGREAVES SAID THE GENEVA MEETING AND OTHER RELATED ISSUES WILL BE DISCUSSED AT AN ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING IN BRUSSELS ON SEPTEMBER 28. THE ETUC COMMITTEE MAY ALSO DISCUSS THE QUESTION OF CHRISTIAN TRADE UNION AFFILIATION. HARGREAVES FAVORS GEORGE DEBUNNE OF THE BELGIAN FGFB AS ETUC PRESIDENT
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ON AN INTERIM BASIS, TO SUCCEED VICTOR FEATHER, BRITISH TUC, THUS ALLOWING HOUTHUYS OF THE BELGIAN CSC A ROLE AS VICE-PRESIDENT. JEAN KULAKOWSKY, CURRENTLY GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE EUROPEAN ORGANIZATION OF THE UCL, MAY LIKELY BECOME AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE

WCL WORLD ORGANIZATION. HARGREAVES CONCEDED, HOWEVER,
THAT IF THE GERMAN DGB INSISTS ON VETTER AS PRESIDENT,
VETTER WILL BE ABLE TO GET THE POST. HE ALSO INDICATED
THAT THE BRITISH WILL TRY TO FIND AN ASSISTANT
SECRETARY FROM THE UK FOR THE ETUC.

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